

CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)
COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM, MILPITAS CITY HALL

MEETING MINUTES

May 25, 2017

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Commissioners present: Arefi, Awasthi, Chang, Grilli, Strohfus, Tsai. Commissioners absent: None. Alternate Commissioner Present: Shapiro.
- Council Liaison Anthony Phan: Present
MHS Student Liaison Dinh: Absent
MUSD Liaison: Absent.
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** Commissioner Alternate Shapiro was seated.
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Chair Grilli lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of April 27, 2017.
M / S: Arefi / Awasthi Ayes: All
- V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of May 25, 2017.
M / S: Awasthi / Arefi Ayes: All
- VI. Announcements:** None.
- VII. Public Forum:** None.
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. Fiscal Year 17-18 Work Plan & Council Presentation**
Staff reviewed current FY16-17 Work Plan and possible Council meeting dates of September 5th and 19th for the Chair to present the FY17-18 Work Plan. Discussion followed regarding the current plan. Staff to present a draft FY17-18 Work Plan at the next SCC meeting.
- IX. Old Business**
- 1. Discuss Interest in Sister City Relationship with Hyderabad, India**
Commissioner Awasthi reported that there is no new information from Hyderabad officials. Discussion followed regarding interest from the community to consider Bangalore, officially known as Bengaluru, the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka.
- 2. Possible Sister City Relationship with a Latin American City**
Chair Grilli reported that there is no new information from his contact in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

3. Update: Contact with Milpitas High School (MHS) Leadership Team

Chair Grilli reported that a new principal was appointed. He advised to contact Cheryl Jordan, Milpitas Unified School District Superintendent, to discuss October 2017 student visits and the assignment of an assistant principal for assistance with home stays and Spirit Week events.

4. Current Ideas in Motion to Promote the Sister Cities Program

Commissioners discussed volunteer participation in the International Festival & BBQ, the displays, and attendance at the booth. The “Sunday morning shift” from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. was determined to have the most visitors. Overall, approximately 50 people visited the booth, viewed the displays, and a smaller number player Karuta.

A broad scope discussion followed regarding the apparent lack of community interest in Milpitas’ sister cities and opportunities to raise awareness: 1) expand the Sister Cities Commission page on the City’s website; 2) Use the City’s social media outlets (Facebook and Next Door accounts); 3) Outreach to schools; 4) Commissioners visit school clubs, and; 5) Raising interest with leaders in community groups. For Item 1, Commissioner Strohfus stated she was willing to work with staff. For Item 2, staff reported that she can post items written and provided by Commissioners. Items 3 through 5 were not discussed in detail.

5. e-Pal Project with Sister Cities

Staff reported that student communications officially wind down with the end of the school year. However, Milpitas students are encouraged to continue the relationships they have established.

7. Tsukuba City, Japan

Commissioner Arefi reported that MHS junior Ananya Donapati presented her idea to start an art project exchange between her art club and an art club or student group in Tsukuba to Ms. Wantanabe who will contact the nine high schools in Tsukuba to determine interest with one school. The purpose is to exchange art creations using regular or international mail. Two ideas are to display art at a festival in Tsukuba in November and to exchange holiday cards, either with a personal touch or original art.

8. Dagupan City, Philippines

Staff will email contact information to Lead Commissioner Tsai.

9. Huizhou Municipality, China

Staff reported that she received an email from Huizhou staff exploring the possibility of finding office space in Milpitas to establish a trade office. Staff is talking with Huizhou contacts based in San Jose and coordinating with the City’s Economic Development Department.

X. Student Liaison Report – None

XI. City Council Liaison Report – Brief report on economic development visit to China; Council in process to conclude budget planning for FY17-18.

XII. School District Liaison Report – None

XIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
2. Bangalore (Bengaluru), India
3. Work Plan FY17-18 & Council Presentation
4. Host Family Preparations

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of May 25, 2017 to the meeting of June 22, 2017.

M / S: Arefi / Awasthi

Ayes: All